



NEW 2003 INCOME LEVELS FOR CHIP FAMILIES

Family Size (includes adults)	Family's Yearly Income (approximately)
2	\$18,180
3	\$22,890
4	\$27,600
5	\$32,310
6	\$37,020
7	\$41,730
If your income is over the limit, you may still be eligible. For more details please call 1-877 KidsNow (1-877-543-7669). This is a free call.	



Spring 2003



KEEPING CHIP FAMILIES INFORMED

What's inside...

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- Legislative Update
- CHIP Benefits for Your New Little One
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Proof of Income No Longer Required

Before....



Good news for families applying for CHIP. You no longer need to send proof of income (pay stubs, tax returns, etc.) when you apply. We ask that you still write your earned and unearned income for all family members in the income section on your application.

We will select a random sample of applications and ask some families for proof of the income they listed. If you are one of the families selected to send proof of income, we will let you know within 2-4 weeks of receiving your application.

We hope that this will make applying for CHIP an easier process.

After...



Legislative Update

The 2003 Montana Legislature could have enacted numerous changes to CHIP, but in the end, only two minor but important changes emerged.

First, Legislators shifted CHIP's state funding from general fund money (the state's checkbook) to state special revenue. This means that CHIP's funding is more secure and cannot be moved to other programs. The state special revenue comes from Montana's Tobacco Settlement and was requested by voters last November when they passed Initiative 146.

Second, CHIP now has the authority to spend private money, if it is received. CHIP's annual budget has been limited by money the state contributes, matched by money from the federal government (for every dollar CHIP spends, Montana puts in 19 cents and the federal government puts in 81 cents). The Legislature has given CHIP the authority to spend money received from donations, grants, and gifts. This money will be matched by federal dollars to provide health insurance for more Montana children.

Many families contacted their Legislators and asked them not to exclude 18 year olds from CHIP coverage, as one Legislator recommended. Legislators listened to you and did not make this change. Eighteen year olds will still be covered by CHIP until the end of the month of their 19th birthday.

CHIP Benefits for Your New Little One...

If your family is expecting a new baby, please call us when your baby is born. We'd like to insure your baby as soon as possible.

If other children in your family have CHIP coverage, we can insure your baby the 1st of the month after we hear from you.



Want to Impress Your Friends?

Try the Egg in the Bottle Trick
(Muriel Mandell, *Simple Science Experiments With Everyday Materials*, 1990)

Can you really put an egg into a bottle – if the bottle has a neck that's slightly smaller than the egg – without mashing the egg?

You need:

- U a hard-boiled egg peeled
- U a small-necked jar, such as a ketchup bottle, baby bottle or water jug
- U boiling water - (Have a parent there... we don't want burns!)

What to do:

Pour boiling water into the bottle. Shake it around and then pour it out. Quickly place the egg over the mouth of the bottle.

What happens:

Even though the egg is larger than the opening, the egg drops into the bottle.

Why:

The hot water leaves steam in the bottle, which forces out some of the air. As the steam in the bottle cools, it changes into droplets of water and requires less space. This reduces the amount of air pressure in the bottle, and so the pressure of the outside air pushes the egg inside the bottle.

To remove the egg, hold the bottle upside down, place your mouth on the opening of the bottle, and blow into it for 30 seconds. The pressure inside will be greater than outside – and so the egg will be forced out.



Important Information



CHIP: 1-877-KidsNow
(1-877-543-7669)
FAX: 1-877-418-4533
These are free calls.



CHIP E-mail
chip@state.mt.us

CHIP Website
www.chip.state.mt.us



CHIP
P.O. Box 202951
Helena, MT 59620-2951



BlueCHIP
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
1-800-447-7828
extension 8647

Please contact us if you move.



If we don't have a current address for you, your children's CHIP benefits may end.

Telling us your new address saves us staff time and postage.

Just give us a call at
1-877-543-7669 (free call).
1-877-KidsNow